

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 1, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-9 and 11-28 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention and to correct typographical informalities. No new matter is added. Claims 1-28 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Publication No. 2002/0038371 to Spacey (Spacey). Applicants respectfully submit that Spacey fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the pending claims.

Claim 1, from which claims 2-6 depends, is directed to a network device for managing a communication over a network. A transceiver is configured to send and to receive the communication over the network. A processor, coupled to the transceiver, is configured to receive a proxy request from a client through a secure tunnel, modify the proxy request to include a security attribute inherent from the secure tunnel, and forward the modified proxy request to a proxy service. The security attribute enables a proxy connection through the secure tunnel.

Claim 7, from which claims 8 and 9 depend, is directed to an apparatus for managing a communication over a network. A transceiver is configured to send and to

receive the communication over the network. A processor, coupled to the transceiver, is configured to establish a secure tunnel between the apparatus and a client, receive a proxy request from the client through the secure tunnel, modify the proxy request to include a security attribute inherent from the secure tunnel, and forward the modified proxy request to a proxy service, wherein the security attribute enables a proxy connection through the secure tunnel.

Claim 10, from which claims 11-17 depend, is directed to a method for managing a communication over a network. A proxy request is received from a client through a secure tunnel. The proxy request is modified to include a security attribute. The modified proxy request is forwarded to a proxy service, wherein the security attribute enables a proxy connection through the secure tunnel.

Claim 18, from which claims 19-26 depend, is directed to a system for managing a communication over a network. A client is configured to determine a secure tunnel and send a proxy request through the determined secure tunnel. A server, coupled to the client, is configured to receive the proxy request from the client through the secure tunnel, modify the proxy request to include a security attribute inherent from the secure tunnel, and forward the modified proxy request to a proxy service. The security attribute enables a proxy connection through the secure tunnel.

Claim 27, from which claim 28 depends, is directed to an apparatus for managing a communication over a network. A transceiver is configured to send and to receive the communication over the network. A processor, coupled to the transceiver, is configured

to receive a proxy request from a client through a secure tunnel. A means modifies the proxy request to include a security attribute inherent from the secure tunnel. A means forwards the modified proxy request to a proxy service. The security attribute enables a proxy connection through the secure tunnel.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims recite features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in Spacey.

Spacey is directed to a method allowing communications to pass between private network segments without the need for holes in the firewalls of those networks. The method uses an Intermediary machine located somewhere on a public network as described herein. A component in the private service network opens one or more outbound connections to the Intermediary and leaves these connections open waiting for a response. These outbound connections pass transparently through any restrictive firewalls on the private service network since these firewalls are typically set-up to block only unprompted inbound requests. A component on the client private network then connects to the same Intermediary with an outbound connection and sends it a request that should be serviced by a server located on the otherwise inaccessible private service network. The Intermediary passes this client request on to the private service network as a response to the waiting outbound connection previously opened by the service network component to the Intermediary. The client request thus enters the private service network a response to a previously opened outbound connection from the service component and so, is not blocked by the private service networks firewall. The service component

reformats the request and transmits it on to the service machine in the private network as required.

Applicants respectfully submit that Spacey fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of modifying the proxy request to include a security attribute and forwarding the modified proxy request to a proxy service, wherein the security attribute enables a proxy connection through the secure tunnel, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 7, 10, 18 and 27. Spacey merely discloses the optional encapsulation of the datagram client requests in a network packet that is routable to the intermediary (See step 4 of Fig. 3) wherein the client sends a network layer request to the address of the destination service application probably located on a different network element or subnet. According to the description in Spacey, the network layer request is not forwarded to a proxy service.

Applicants respectfully submit that because claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-17, 19-26 and 28 depend from claims 1, 7, 10, 18 and 27, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1, 7, 10, 18 and 27, as well as for the additional features recited in these dependent claims.

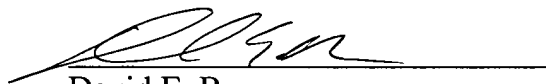
Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Spacey fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1-28. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claims 1-28 be withdrawn.

Applicants further request that each of claims 1-28 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Information Disclosure Statement